
Declining publications sales have resulted primarily from the public's increased ability to access Government publications free of charge over the Internet.

GPO's FY 2002 Appropriations Approved

With Senate passage on November 1, 2001, of the conference agreement on H.R. 2647, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2002, Congress completed action on GPO's appropriations, clearing the measure for the President. The President signed the bill into law on November 12, 2001.

Under Title I of the Act, \$71.5 million was approved for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, which is used to cover the costs of printing work that GPO performs for Congress, such as the *Congressional Record*, bills, reports, and hearings. This is the full amount requested by GPO for FY 2002.

Under Title II of the Act, \$27.9 million was approved for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, also the full amount requested by GPO. This funding is used to cover the costs of distributing Government publications as required by law (including distribution to Federal depository libraries), cataloging and indexing documents, distributing Government publications to recipients designated by law, and distributing Government publications to other nations which agree to send copies of their official publications to the Library of Congress.

The Salaries and Expenses Appropriation for FY 2002 includes funding for additional staff to locate and catalog online Government information, modernize GPO's cataloging system, and support the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Electronic Collection made available through *GPO Access*.

GPO's request of 3,260 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees for FY 2002 was also approved. Together, the two appropriations to GPO total \$99.4 million, representing about 4% of total legislative branch funding overall.

Earlier in the year, in the supplemental appropriation for FY 2001, GPO was provided with \$9.9 million to fund a prior year shortfall in congressional printing and binding and \$6 million for energy-efficient air conditioning and lighting improvements recommended by the General Accounting Office. Also, there was a Government-wide rescission of .22% that reduced the two FY 2002 Appropriations by \$218,000. With the supplemental and rescission, GPO's appropriations for FY 2001, which originally were \$99.4 million, totaled \$115.1 million.

Also approved was a legislative amendment that will extend the life of GPO's early retirement and separation incentive programs for an additional three years. These programs were originally enacted in FY 1999 for 3 years. Under them, 98 GPO employees have taken early-out retirements, resulting in an estimated \$5 million in savings.

GPO Closes Bookstores

Responding to declining sales of Government publications, GPO closed 4 of its bookstores in 2001. In July, the San Francisco and McPherson Square bookstores were closed, and in August GPO closed the Boston bookstore. The bookstore in Philadelphia was closed in September. The closings reduced the number of GPO bookstores nationwide to 20 by the end of 2001.